

to come. However, at the same time, new development is coming to West Virginia. This is needed development that provides jobs for West Virginians and helps support our economy. But with this increased development comes a responsibility to set some part of our natural environment aside for those who come after us.

The Monongahela Forest encompasses nearly 920,000 acres of land in the heart of the Appalachian Mountain Range and contains some of the most ecological and geological unique reaches of our State. There are currently five wilderness areas in the Monongahela including the Cranberry Wilderness and Dolly Sods Wilderness. This bill will create four new wilderness areas and expand three of the existing areas. All of the land being designated as wilderness was already being treated as either recommended wilderness by the Forest Service or as backcountry recreation.

I want to extend my thanks to Congressman RAHALL for his leadership on this bill and congratulate him on drafting legislation that has received the support of West Virginia's entire bipartisan congressional delegation. Like all members of the congressional delegation, I have heard from hundreds of West Virginians how wilderness is important to them. I have heard how wilderness is a major draw for the outdoor tourism industry and will provide jobs. I have heard from West Virginians who want to make sure that they will be able to continue to fish pristine streams and hunt in the forests. They want to experience the excellent hiking and backpacking the hills of West Virginia have to offer, and make sure their grandchildren have that same opportunity. But the reason I heard more than any others from West Virginians was the need to protect some small part of God's creation as His stewards on this Earth.

This legislation has received support from diverse groups and people across West Virginia including the West Virginia AFL-CIO, the Fayette County Commission, West Virginia Council of Churches, and both the Pocahontas and Greenbrier County Conventions and Visitor Bureaus, just to name a few. I know that there will be people who feel that this legislation is too big and goes too far. At the same time I recognize those West Virginians who are disappointed that areas of the Monongahela Forest special to them were not included. But I believe this legislation strikes a careful balance that will protect West Virginia's forests and serve our State's interests for generations to come.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING JACK B. WEIL

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I wish to make note of the recent passing of Jack B. Weil of Denver, CO. I

knew Jack personally. That puts me in the company of thousands. The passing of Jack B. Weil is not only a loss for his family, but it is a loss for the city of Denver and the State of Colorado, so I wanted to share a bit about Jack.

Jack was born on Nov 13, 1928, at Denver's Mercy Hospital. He graduated from Tulane University in 1952 and entered the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant, thus beginning a life of service to causes greater than himself.

In 1954, Jack joined the firm founded by his father, Rockmount Ranch Wear Manufacturing Company, where he worked until illness forced him to retire last year. While at Rockmount, Jack used his artistic flair to create many signature designs which have become icons of western shirt design. In fact his "Sawtooth" pocket and "diamond" snap design is the longest running shirt design in America, and it sits in a collection at the Smithsonian. Rockmount shirts have been worn by working cowboys, rodeo cowboys and the likes of Ronald Reagan, Elvis, Eric Clapton, Robert Redford, and more.

Jack was active in his community throughout his life. He supported higher education for all and served as the longtime chairman of the Foundation for the Community College of Denver. He supported the cause of historic preservation, even buying one of Denver's historic homes and fighting to preserve the historic character of the Humboldt Island neighborhood. He opened that same home for fundraisers for a wide spectrum of causes, including charitable and political ones. An accomplished artist, his abstract paintings provided pleasure to many people and were displayed in local galleries.

On the political front, Jack was proof that one could have strong convictions yet treat those with divergent views with respect and dignity. He never hesitated to state his views and he actively supported them by his involvement and leadership with various political organizations. When discussions would get too heated, Jack was quick with a wry comment or offcolor joke to break the tension and remind everyone of their commonalities, not their differences.

To the very end, Jack served others. He spent the past 2-plus years as the cochair of the USS *Mesa Verde* commissioning team. In that role, Jack supported the crew of this brand new Navy ship with both his time and his money. Despite his flagging health, he even attended the commissioning ceremony in Florida this past December to demonstrate his support of our brave sailors.

But you can not capture the essence of Jack B. Weil in his accomplishments. No, the true essence of Jack is captured in the lives he touched. You see, Jack Weil loved people. Be it buying someone who was having a bad day an ice cream cone or inviting people he had just met over to his house, Jack demonstrated a heart for people that we all would do well to follow. He made

friends wherever he went and always offered words of encouragement to those who needed them. This is best demonstrated by the volume of e-mails, phone calls, and letters that his family has received from all over the world offering their condolences and stories of how Jack touched them.

Though Jack moved in circles with the rich and powerful, he was completely unaffected by it. His son tells a story of Jack mentioning one day how he had sold some shirts to "some British musician . . . David something . . . Bowie," which his son thought was another one of Jack's jokes until he received a call from David Bowie's assistant the next day to order more shirts. Or the time Jack shared some laughs at a club with Robin Williams while having no idea who he was. That was how Jack was. It didn't matter if you were famous or powerful or a cleaning lady or a bartender, to Jack you were just his friend.

There is a line from a poem that all cadets at West Point learn that I think says it best: And when our course on earth is run, may it be said, "Well Done, be thou at peace." Well Done, Jack. ●

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANSDOWNE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Lansdowne Improvement Association on its 100th anniversary. Since April 1908, the association has served the Lansdowne community, a neighborhood that has a rich and interesting history.

In the 1800s, the Whitaker Iron Company began mining ore in the area and farms soon followed. Once the mining pits were abandoned, underground springs filled the pits creating small ponds and lakes. The area continued to grow and develop, particularly with the influence of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The B&O Railroad opened the Coursey Station in what is now Lansdowne. The Coursey Station Senior Housing Center, a thriving mainstay of the community, is named for this station.

Throughout the 20th century, the community continued its growth around Coursey Station. Lansdowne quickly became known as a B&O town because many of its residents worked for the railroad. Many of its workers commuted to Baltimore City by train. This connection lasted until the 1960s when the B&O railroad closed the station. To this day, Lansdowne remains a very close-knit community.

The Lansdowne Improvement Association is an active and visible part of the community. It hosts monthly meetings that are well attended by the community. Working together to benefit the neighborhood, the Association sponsors the Citizens on Patrol program and a canned food drive, and it keeps residents informed about activities and concerns in the community.